

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E. O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JUNE 8 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

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1. ALL PAPERS FEATURE GVN' S DECLARATION IT WILL NOT SIGN
ANY NEW C- F AGREEMENTS. NYT' S TREASTER, IN SAIGON, REPORTS
GVN OFFICIALS SAY THEY READY GIVE TACIT ACCEPTANCE BUT
UNWILLING ENTER BINDING AGREEMENTS ON ZONES OF CONTROL OR

POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS HAK- THO WORK OUT. TELL TREASTER MOST RECENT SULLIVAN SAIGON MISSION RESULTED IN AGREEMENT ON NUMBER OF KEY POINTS, BUT NOT ON OTHERS, INCLUDING QUESTIONS OF ZONES OF CONTROL AND COUNTRY'S POLITICAL FUTURE. TREASTER ALSO REPORTS US OFFICIALS IN SAIGON BELIEVE CURRENT STAND IS ESSENTIALLY NEGOTIATING TACTIC AND GVN WILL EVENTUALLY " COME ON BOARD." POST'S RANDAL AND PHINQ PARIS REPORT SIMILARLY THAT SOURCES CLOSE TO NEGOTS BELIEVE GVN ANNOUNCEMENT IS GRANDSTAND GESTURE, THAT GVN HAS KNOWN THAT CURRENT NEGOTS ARE EXPECTED RESULT IN MERE FINAL COMMUNIQUE RATHER THAN BINDING DOCUMENT.

2. AP SUN NOTES EARLIER REPORTS THAT CURRENT HAK- THO TALKS WERE DESIGNED EXPLORE METHODS TO IMPLEMENT ORIGINAL AGREE- MENT RATHER THAN RENEGOTIATE OR AMEND IT. SAIGON RUMORS YESTERDAY HAD THIEU OBJECTING TO HAK- THO DISCUSSIONS OVER TIMETABLE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF RECONCILIATION COUNCIL AND HOLDING OF ELECTIONS. THIEU, ACCORDING GVN SOURCES, TOLD

HIS NSC THAT ALL SUCH ISSUES MUST BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN RVN AND PRG WITHOUT INTERVENTION OR PRESSURE FROM US AND DRV.

3. MOST DISPATCHES REPORT HAK'S JOCULAR EXPLANATION THAT YESTERDAY'S SESSION HAD BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE SULLIVAN " OVERSLEPT"; BUT NYDN'S VALERY REPORTS IT CLEAR THIEU'S OBJECTIONS WERE CAUSE OF SESSION'S DELAY. POST'S RANDAL SUGGESTS FACT THAT VC RADIO ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN PRG AND SEVEN COUNTRIES MAY MEAN PRG HAS GIVEN UP EFFORT TO TRY SHARE POWER WITH RVN IN FAVOR OF STRATEGY OF PARTITIONING SVN. CSM'S OKA, IN PARIS, REPORTS INFORMED SOURCES SAY THIEU OPPOSES PARTITION AND WANTS ELECTIONS AT EARLY DATE.

4. HFAC PASSES RESOLUTION AIMED AT LIMITING PRESIDENT'S POWER TO COMMIT US FORCES TO COMBAT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES UNCLASSIFIED

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WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL WITHIN 120 DAYS AFTER HE REPORTS SUCH ACTION. REPORT TO CONGRESS REQUIRED WITHIN 72 HOURS. BUT COMMITTEE REJECTS EFFORTS TO AMEND RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CAMBODIA BOMBING FUND CUTOFF. NYT'S MADDEN NOTES, HOWEVER, SENATE- HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FUNDS CUTOFF WILL MEET AGAIN MONDAY. POST'S LYONS NOTES MAJORITY OF COMMITTEE RECENTLY VOTED TO REFUSE FURTHER BOMBING FUNDS, BUT SEVERAL VOTED AGAINST FUNDS CUTOFF IN RESOLUTION FOR FEAR IT WOULD BE DEFEATED BY FULL HOUSE BECAUSE RESOLUTION IS MUCH STRONGER THAN ANY WAR POWERS BILL PREVIOUSLY SENT TO HOUSE FLOOR.

5. TEN- VESSEL CONVOY UNDER USAF COVER REACHES PP WITH OIL AND AMMO (NYDN, SUN, WP). FANK FIGHTS TO DISLODGE LARGE

ANTIGOVERNMENT FORCE FROM HIGHWAY 4 LINK TO SEA, AND DRIVES INFILTRATORS OUT OF ANG SNOUL. 2000 MORE REFUGEES FLEE TO PP. ESTIMATED 4000 KI MIXED WITH NVA AND CHAM TRIBESMEN REPORTED IN ACTION ALONG HIGHWAY 4. US PLANES HEAVILY ENGAGED BUT NO KHMER PLANES SEEN (SUN). NYT'S BROWNE OBSERVES HIGHWAY 4 FIGHTING AND REPORTS FANK AT REAL DISADVANTAGE WHEN COMMUNISTS TAKE COVER IN SANCROSANCT PAGODAS. BROWNE DISPATCH INCLUDES PHOTO OF SHATTERED REMAINS OF PREK KDAM VILLAGE AFTER ENEMY ATTACK ON MAY 28 IN WHICH 100 FANK WERE ROUTED, 40 HOUSES RAZED AND 8 VILLAGERS KILLED.

6. REUTER (CSM) REPORTS PAYROLL SCANDAL CONTINUES IMPEDE FANK COMBAT OPS, CITING EXAMPLE OF 600- MAN UNIT WHICH SIMPLY WALKED AWAY FROM POSTS AND APPARENTLY JOINED ENEMY

IN REPORTED DISGUST OVER FAILURE RECEIVE PAY. ACCORDING REUTER, THOUSANDS OF " GHOST SOLDIERS" CONTINUE RECEIVE ILLICIT PAY. AP PP REPORTS NEOU NOU, FANK MAJOR AND MOTHER OF 12, SAYS SHE CONDUCTED SECRET NEGOTS WITH KR AS LON NOL SPECIAL ENVOY. SHE HOPES IN TAM GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE NEGOTIATE END TO WAR, FAVORS HALT TO US AIR OPS BECAUSE PLANES HIT ONLY POPULATED AREAS, AND SAYS LON NOL WOULD HAVE AGREED TO KR DEMAND THEY BE ALLOWED REMAIN TOGETHER UNCLASSIFIED

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IN PARTICULAR AREA UNDER GKR CONTROL, BUT " HIGH COMMAND" DECIDED THEY BE BROKEN UP, SO DEAL NEVER WENT THROUGH (CHITRIB).

7. AMB. KIM DENIES CHARGES BY FORMER CULTURAL ATTACHE LEE OF ROK CIA HARASSMENT IN U. S. MAINTAINS LEE HAD NO CAUSE FOR PERSONAL FEARS AND THAT HIS " INAPPROPRIATE" CONDUCT WAS MATTER OF SURPRISE AND REGRET TO EMBASSY (WP).

8. ALMOST ENTIRE ACTIVE CHINESE LEADERSHIP, APART FROM MAO, LEADS 10,000 IN MASS RALLY TO HONOR DRV DELEGATION. LE DUAN AND PHAM VAN DONG GUESTS OF HONOR IN HOUR- LONG FUNCTION HELD IN GREAT HALL (REUTER NYT, WP). PEKING DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY PRC HAS APPARENTLY GONE SOME WAY TOWARDS MAKING UP ECONOMIC AID TO NVN PROMISED BY U. S. IN C- F TALKS. NVN LEADERS REPORTEDLY WILL BE MAKING SIMILAR TRIPS TO RUSSIA, NK, MONGOLIA AND EE SEEKING FURTHER ECONOMIC AID. PEKING DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY PRC HAS INDICATED GREATER APPROVAL THAN PREVIOUSLY FOR EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION OF VN, WHILE NVN HAS UNDERTAKEN NOT TO INTERFERE IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA (REUTER).

9. CHI PENG- FEI AND DOUGLAS- HOME BEGIN FIRST MAJOR

DIPLOMATIC TALKS BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES IN ALMOST
25 YEARS (WP).

10. GRC WARNS JAPAN THAT JAPANESE AIRLINERS WILL BE
BARRED FROM TAIWAN AIR SPACE IF TOKYO SIGNS
AIR AGREEMENT WITH PRC THAT IS DETRIMENTAL TO ROC
INTERESTS (UPI, NYDN).

11. HOWELL (WP), IN HONG KONG, SAYS SOURCES THERE
REPORT CHINESE CHURCH EMERGING FROM ECLIPSE.
DOAK BARNETT ATTENDED FORMAL PEKING BANQUET AND FOUND
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HIMSELF SEATED BESIDE REV. Y. T. WOO, ECUMENICAL
LEADER WELL KNOWN AS WORLD CHURCH LEADER SOME 20
YEARS AGO.

12. USSR REQUESTS POSTPONEMENT OF TANAKA'S
PROJECTED AUGUST MOSCOW VISIT, BUT INVITES DELEGATION
OF JAPANESE MP'S AT THAT TIME. MESSAGE CAUSES MUCH
EMBARRASSMENT TO GOJ. JAPANESE CORRESPONDENTS IN
MOSCOW SPECULATE MOVE COULD INDICATE MOSCOW'S CONCERN
OVER DECLINE OF TANAKA'S LEADERSHIP, OVER IMPROVED
SINO- JAPANESE RELATIONS AND OVER JAPAN'S FAILURE TO
APPROVE BANKING SYNDICATE'S LOAN FOR TYUMEN DEVELOPMENT
(NYT). PEPPER (SUN), IN TOKYO, CITES SOVIET JAPANESE
OFFICIALS ASCRIBING DELAY IN TANAKA TRIP TO TECHNICAL
RATHER THAN POLITICAL, CONSIDERATIONS.

13. USCCI CHAIRMAN YUNICH D SCLOSES PLANS FOR
CHAMBER TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN SPONSORING
TRADE WITH ASIA; WILL SOON OPEN SPECIAL " FAR EASTERN
BUREAU" (NYT, SIEGEL).

14. S- N'S ARBUCKLE (JUNE 7), IN VIENTIANE, REPORTS
PESSIMISM OF OFFICIALS AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS THAT HAK-
THO TALKS CAN ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINA CONFLICT.
OUTLOOK BASED ON NVN'S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH
ARTICLE 20 OF JANUARY AGREEMENT ON LAOS, AND NVN
MILITARY AND POLITICAL MOVES SINCE THEN IN LAOS.
MILITARY TRAFFIC MOVES DOWN HO TRAIL FREE OF US
BOMBING BECAUSE PL BLOCKS POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WHICH
WOULD REQUIRE NVA WITHDRAWAL 60 DAYS THEREAFTER.
MEANWHILE, C- F VIOLATIONS, TWO- THIRDS OF WHICH ARE
PL, REMAIN AT STEADY LEVEL, BUT INTENSITY OF PL/ NVA
ATTACKS HAS INCREASED. GIVEN NVN'S RECORD, LAOTIANS
BELIEVE THAT HANOI'S MOTIVE IN RETURNING TO PARIS IS
SURGICAL REMOVAL OF WHAT REMAINS OF US MILITARY
PRESENCE IN INDOCHINA AND TO TRY FORCE HAK PRESSURE
ON SAIGON, PP AND VIENTIANE FOR MORE CONCESSIONS.

15. CDN'S LARRY GREEN (JUNE 4) CITES EMBASSY SAIGON

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SOURCES AS DISCLOSING THAT EMBASSY PP HAS BLOCKED COVERAGE OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA IN RECENT MONTHS BY VOA CORRESPONDENTS. SINCE VOA NEWSMEN ARE USG EMPLOYEES, EMBASSY RULED THEY FALL UNDER CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS LIMITING NUMBER OF AMERICANS OFFICIALLY IN CAMBODIA TO 200. VOA KHMER LANGUAGE BROADCASTS ARE AMONG VOA'S MOST POPULAR AND SERVE AS ONE OF PRIME INFO SOURCES FOR CAMBODIANS WHOSE KNOWLEDGE OF WORLD EVENTS IS SHARPLY RESTRICTED BY GOVERNMENT PROHIBITIONS ON NEWS FROM OUTSIDE.

16. DETROIT NEWS (JUNE 3) CAUTIONS THAT IF CONGRESS PASSES PROHIBITIONS AGAINST US MILITARY ACTIVITY IN CAMBODIA, IT MAY BE CUTTING OFF OWN NOSE TO SPITE FACE. BANNING BOMBING WOULD NOT ONLY UNDERCUT US POSITION AT PARIS BUT EASE COMMUNIST VICTORY IN CAMBODIA AND VN. AND IF CAMBODIA FALLS, ADMIN WOULD FIND IT EASY TO BLAME CONGRESS. FOR ALL ITS DISILLUSIONMENT WITH VN, AMERICAN PUBLIC DOES NOT WELCOME BITTER SMELL OF DEFEAT.

17. SUN REFERS TO JUNE 7 WOODRUFF ARTICLE REPORTING CONSENSUS OF EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS THAT OUTLOOK FOR

SALVAGING PRO- US GOVERNMENT IN PP IS BLEAK, BECAUSE 1970 NATIONALIST FERVOR HAS BEEN DISSIPATED BY REGIME'S CORRUPTION, INCOMPETENCE, ETC. SUN BELIEVES US FAILURE IN EFFORTS TO SHORE UP GKR WOULD IN EFFECT BE FAILURE OF NIXON DOCTRINE.

18. CHILDS (SUN) DESCRIBES UNSPOILED BEAUTY OF KWEILIN SEEN DURING 60- MILE CRUISE DOWN LI RIVER. IN TALKS WITH KWEILIN SCHOOL SYSTEM OFFICIAL, AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, BOTH OF ZHUONG (CHUANG) MINORITY, HE WAS ASSURED THERE NO PROBLEMS BETWEEN ZHUONGS (WHO COMPRISE ONE- THIRD OF POPULATION) AND HAN MAJORITY. NEARING END OF " MEMORABLE" FIVE WEEKS IN CHINA, CHILDS IS IMPRESSED BY TLC AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ON- TIME EFFICIENCY.

19. VINCENT MATTHEWS (SUN), IN CANBERRA, SEES POSSIBILITY OF DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. OBSERVES GROWING CONFIDENCE OF OPPOSITION PARTIES THAT THEY CAN WIN, AND GALLUP POLL SHOWING DROP IN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FROM 53 PERCENT TO 48 PERCENT.

WORKING TO WHITLAM'S ADVANTAGE, HE CAN DECIDE TIMING OF ELECTION AND THE ISSUE. IF GOVERNMENT RUNS INTO TROUBLE, IT WILL BE BECAUSE OF CONTROVERSIAL VIGOR RATHER THAN INACTIVITY. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OPPOSITION CHARGES WHITLAM TAKING AUSTRALIA " INTO THE COMMUNIST ORBIT." BUT MOST CONTROVERSIAL ASPECT OF FOREIGN POLICY STEMS FROM DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS WITH US ORIGINATING IN WHITLAM'S CRITICAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT DURING CHRISTMAS BOMBING OF HAIPHONG. APPARENTLY, ALP ELECTION VICTORY SURPRISED WASHINGTON OFFICIALS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF ILL- INFORMED ADVICE THEY WERE GETTING FROM EMBASSY CANBERRA. RELIABLE SOURCES SAY NIXON REJECTED WHITLAM OFFER TO VISIT WASHINGTON TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER. FEELING IN CANBERRA IS THAT AFTER WATERGATE, PRESIDENT WILL WELCOME ANY HAND OF FRIENDSHIP.

20. LAT'S LESLIE (JUNE 7), AT VUNG TAU CONVALESCENT CENTER, NOTES CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE IN TREATMENT OF US AND SVN RETURNED- POWS. OBSERVES THAT MOST SVN POWS FEEL BEING CAPTURED IS NOTHING MORE THAN ONE OF OBVIOUS RISKS OF WARFARE, AND ONCE RECOVERED, ARE EXPECTED RETURN TO FIGHTING. THEY WOULD LIKE DISCHARGE FROM SERVICE, BUT MORE REALISTIC ONES WOULD SETTLE FOR BACK PAY.

21. FROM JAKARTA, CSM'S DAVIS OBSERVES ECON BOOM STEMMING FROM FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES. NOTES EFFORTS BY SUHARTO AND HIS ECON ADVISERS TO REDIRECT WEALTH DOWNWARD IN TENTATIVE EXPERIMENT IN " SOCIAL JUSTICE."

22. CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, REVIEWS FLAPS CAUSED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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OPPOSITION ALLEGATIONS OF LDP USE OF EMPEROR FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. FINDS LATEST FLAP (WHICH BEGAN WHEN EX- SDF CHIEF MASUHARA REPORTED HIM'S QUESTIONS ON SDF STRENGTH DURING AN AUDIENCE) HAS ENDED, TO RELIEF OF PRACTICALLY EVERYONE IN JAPAN EXCEPT COMMUNISTS. RUSH

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